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House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3212

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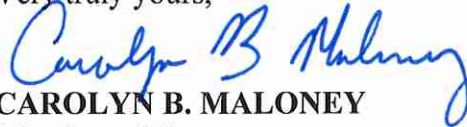
Dear Chair Russ,

I am writing in support of the proposal to convert an empty lot, located directly north of the pedestrian path that runs between 12th Street and 21st Avenue near 41st Road, into a community garden. New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Queensbridge resident Lashawn Marston began advocating for this in 2013. To date a petition supporting this effort has garnered over 2,200 signature.

While I understand that residents working on this initiative have received conflicting information as to which City agency is responsible for the parcel of land, the Automated City Register Information System (ACRIS) reports that the tax lot (Queens Block 465 Lot 1) is managed by NYCHA. This plot of land has long been under utilized, and its conversion into a public garden would be a great benefit to the Queensbridge community. Additionally, I understand that several groups and individuals have expressed an interest in working with the community to provide educational and other programming in the space.

I urge NYCHA to work with the community to create a garden at this location, consistent with all applicable rules and regulations. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Jessie Kay in my office at Jessie.Kay@mail.house.gov. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Very truly yours,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

CBM/shg